

**REMARKS**

This is a preliminary amendment in which the Applicants have canceled claim 1, without prejudice, and have added claims 2-42.

A favorable first office action is respectfully requested.

If, for any reason, the Examiner is of the opinion that a telephone conversation with Applicant's representative would expedite prosecution, the Examiner is kindly invited to contact the undersigned at (617) 720-3500.

If this response is not considered timely filed and if a request for an extension of time is otherwise absent, Applicant hereby requests any necessary extension of time. If there is a fee occasioned by this response, including an extension fee, that is not covered by an enclosed check, please charge any deficiency to Deposit Account No. 23/2825.

Respectfully submitted,  
***Marvin J. Slepian et al., Applicants***

By: 

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Docket No. F0397.70068US00  
Date: October 14, 2003  
**xNDDx**